

TOWN LOCKED UP BY DECKERS.

Port Richmond's Corporate Possessions in His Hands.

TAXES CAN'T BE PAID.

Offices Sealed Up Pending the Payment of Decker's Judgment.

A BIG BOULEVARD PROJECT.

The Town Trustees Seized Property to Construct It, and There Lies the Trouble.

The village was under lock and key, and the fact that an election of Supervisors and assessors for the entirety of Richmond County was in progress didn't seem to make any material difference. The village was locked up, and you couldn't get away from that fact. For instance, you owed taxes to the village of Port Richmond, and in common honesty, you wanted to pay them. Well, you couldn't.

It is certainly a condition, and not a theory, which exists when one wants to pay taxes and can't. The reason why the honest landholders of Port Richmond could not discharge their obligations to the village was because the Sheriff of the county had taken possession of the village offices, and the legally elected officers knew not where to meet and protest.

The village of Port Richmond, S. I., is incorporated. The village, which claims a population of 5,000 souls, derives considerable income from Sunday bicyclists, but not enough to satisfy its trustee. They therefore planned a boulevard which would run from shore to shore, and make Staten Island, and more especially Port Richmond, an ideal resort for wheelmen and wheelwomen.

You Must Know Staten Island.

If you know nothing about the topography of Staten Island you cannot understand why such an idea should have implanted itself within the heads of the trustees; but if, on the contrary, you do know something about Staten Island, and more particularly about Port Richmond, you are aware of the fact that it is prolific of delightful rides which can be enjoyed only after the most earnest endeavor, and the most unpleasant experiences.

The trustees of Port Richmond obtained legal permission to construct a boulevard, and a commission on condemnation was appointed, which assessed damages at \$80,000. Among the property-holders who were awarded damages was David Decker. The County Court said that his property had been injured to the extent of \$1,500, and he secured a judgment against the village for that amount. He tried to collect this sum, but the village trustees did not look upon the matter in the same light as did the County Court. Therefore Decker failed to collect a cent of damages.

His Neighbors Stand by Him.

His neighbors were with him, though, and they assured him they would stand by him in any step he might take, for they cared absolutely nothing about a boulevard from New York Bay to the Kill by Kull. They cared even less about bicyclists. So, on Monday, Decker, with his judgment in his pocket went to see Sheriff John L. Talley and asked him to levy on the possessions of the village. There was nothing for the Sheriff to do but obey. Accordingly he summoned seven deputies and proceeded to Port Richmond. He levied on everything in sight. He placed his official seal on everything within the trustees' offices, including the vote box, and then locked the door. He went half a block further and levied on the office of the tax collector. He left the office of the Board of Relief intact, but, on retreating, he locked the door, and inadvertently put the key in his pocket.

Why the village is locked up, and why there is posted on the door of the office of the village Tax Collector this notice:

Tax Office Closed To-day, on account of Sheriff.

And probably this notice, posted on the window of the Trustees' office, is susceptible of the same explanation.

No business transacted to-day on account of Sheriff.

TRIED TO BORROW DIAMONDS.

Tramp Explained That His Wife Expected to Attend the Bradley Martin Ball.

A tramp presented himself at the front door of Mrs. Edward Lockwood's home, on French street, New Brunswick, N. J., yesterday morning. He was in tatters and looked as though in need of a bath and a good meal. When Mrs. Lockwood opened the door he opened the conversation by saying:

"Say, missus, me wife wants ter know if you kin lend her your diamonds for a few days."

"Send your wife my diamonds?" repeated Mrs. Lockwood. "Why, I haven't got a diamond to my name."

"But she says she wants 'em," the tramp explained, "but she says she wants 'em for a Bradley Martin ball. She says she wants 'em for a Bradley Martin ball. She says she wants 'em for a Bradley Martin ball."

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WEAVERS A RIOTOUS MOB.

Paterson Silk Mill Strikers Assault a Worker, and One of Them Is Arrested and Fined.

The Phoenix Silk Manufacturing Company, of Paterson, N. J., made an unsuccessful effort yesterday to break up the weavers' strike. It had been advertised that the mills would be reopened, but when the hour for beginning work arrived yesterday morning only ten of the 300 weavers returned. There was disorder, a force of police keeping the watchful strikers moving, as they gathered in numbers in front of the mill, on Van Houten street. Superintendent Decker told those who returned to work that those who were anxious to work, but were afraid to do so.

The strikers held a meeting during the night. Most of the strikers who returned to work had dinner in the mill. Mr. and Mrs. John Horton were followed home by a howling crowd. Henry Fairclough sailed boldly forth to go to his home, at No. 110 Main street. He is a relative of Superintendent Decker and particularly disliked on that account by his associates. At a signal he was surrounded by a crowd of men and women strikers, who greeted him with cries of "Scab! Scab! Scab!" and blows from numerous fists.

When the corner of Main and Slater street was reached the mob numbered about 500 people, and Sergeant Sommers and the two policemen who met it at that point were practically powerless. Missiles directed at Fairclough were driven through the air.

Harvey Jackson was arrested and one hundred of his comrades were present when he was arraigned in court, two hours later, and fined \$100. The accused have not yet been arrested. The strikers still claim they will win.

FIVE DEMOCRATS ELECTED.

Sweeping Victory in Staten Island—No License Plan Beaten.

The town elections in the five towns of Staten Island passed off very quietly yesterday. In Southfield a determined effort was made to defeat President Nathaniel Marsh, of the Board of Supervisors, for reelection to the Supervisoryship, but he was re-elected. A heavy vote was called out by the constitutional provision for and against saloons and hotels.

The new Board of Supervisors will consist of five Democrats. The old board consisted of one Republican, Abram Cole, who for eight years represented the Town of Westfield as a Republican, but was defeated yesterday by ex-Assemblyman Hubbard H. Yetman, in Southfield. Augustus W. Aker was elected Supervisor in Midlandtown, Dr. John L. Feeny, and in Northfield, Edward W. Doyle. Mr. Aker and Mr. Yetman are new members.

The prohibitionists and the temperance societies made a vigorous fight to have the license laws about the no-license plan, but license prevailed in every town. The vote against the licensing of hotels and saloons was very decisive.

WANT OFFICIALS IMPEACHED.

Bergen County Taxpayers Rebel Against Republican Mismanagement.

The taxpayers of Bergen County, disgusted with the present management of public affairs, have sent a committee to Trenton, to consult Governor Griggs and the Legislature, to try to secure the impeachment of some of the offending officials. There was not money enough on hand during the present term of court to pay the jurors, while thousands of dollars in the county were withheld by dilatory officials.

County Collector Coe has reported that Prosecutor Stagg and nearly all of the county justices were in arrears in paying into the county treasury fines collected by them.

Chairman Howland, of the Finance Committee of the Board of Freeholders, has warned his associates that the annual appropriations have been spent too lavishly, and has strongly advised economy. The rate for county taxes in 1896 was higher than ever before, and the prospects are that it will not be cut down this year.

Freeholder Post, in open meeting, charged that the county had been swindled in the purchase of a new jail. He refused to vote for some of the bills passed at last week's meeting of the Board of Freeholders and Prosecutor, all the county offices are filled by Republicans, who have a good working knowledge of the situation. He refused to vote for some of the bills passed at last week's meeting of the Board of Freeholders and Prosecutor, all the county offices are filled by Republicans, who have a good working knowledge of the situation.

QUICK TRIAL FOR RODRIGUEZ.

Convicted of Manslaughter and Sentenced at Once to Twenty Years.

Joseph Rodriguez was convicted of manslaughter in the Supreme Court, Brooklyn, yesterday, and sentenced to twenty years in Sing Sing. He shot and killed John Barr in the latter's saloon, No. 32 Atlantic avenue, on September 5, 1896.

Rodriguez quarreled with Barr over the payment of a dollar for drinks. Before the bystanders could interfere, Rodriguez drew a revolver and fired at the proprietor, killing him.

The trial was commenced at 10:30 o'clock Monday morning. The sentence was pronounced yesterday shortly after noon, making one of the shortest murder trials in the history of Kings County.

STOVE GAS OR SAUSAGES.

Silvera's Don't Know Which to Blame for Their Sickness.

The five members of the family of Charles H. Silvera, a designer living on Bloomfield avenue, Glen Ridge, N. J., had a close call from death yesterday morning and can't tell whether it was from eating stale sausage or from inhaling the fumes of a stove.

All ate heartily of the sausages on Monday night. Early yesterday morning they were seized with vomiting, and Dr. John E. Wilson, who was hastily summoned, had hard work in bringing them around. When they awoke their bedrooms were filled with coal gas, and this may have been the cause of their sickness.

Mrs. Dexheimer, of Orange, Dead.

Mrs. Peter Dexheimer, eight-eight years old, a lifelong resident of Orange, N. J., and mother of the Commissioner John Dexheimer, died in Orange yesterday.

ALDERMEN OPEN COMEDY OF ERRORS.

Tammany Men Elected Oakley a Member of the Finance Committee.

EVERY ONE WAS 'RATTLED.

Even the Chairman Lost His Head and Declared One Wrong Vote.

GAVEL BEAT A LOUD TATTOO.

Several Members Appropriated the Floor at Once—Republicans in Wrath Signed a Protest Against the Election.

There was confusion worse confounded in the Aldermanic Chamber yesterday and out of the storm of motions, protests, resolutions, mistakes, the hammering of the Speaker's gavel and general pandemonium, John T. Oakley emerged, elected a member of the Finance Committee.

Tammany members took the Republicans by surprise and won. The regular order of business was being carried out when Alderman Goodwin jumped up and said:



The Problem That Confronts the Citizens of Port Richmond.

The Sheriff has locked up all the tangible possessions of the village pending the payment of a judgment secured against it by one Becker. The Tax Collector's office is sealed up and the worthy villagers can't pay their taxes. The Trustees are barred out of their office, and the corporate business is at a standstill. The only key that will unlock those corporation doors is in the Sheriff's inside pocket.

"I move that Mr. Oakley be elected a member of the Finance Committee to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of W. M. K. O'Leary."

A vote was taken, resulting in 14 yeas and 43 nays. Schilling, the O'Brien, voted with Tammany, while the other O'Brien, Dwyer, voted with the Republicans. Hackets (Rep.) was absent, also Burke (Tam.) and Jeroloman, the president.

Hall (Rep.) was up in arms at once and declared that a resolution required 10 yeas. Vice-President Windolph, who was in the chair, said he thought Hall was right. An appeal was taken from the Chair's decision, and the vote was 12 in the affirmative, 44 negative.

"The Chair is sustained," said Mr. Windolph. "Nonsense," shouted Alderman Brown. "The Chair is declared wrong."

Windolph saw his error, and then, in correcting himself, said: "The Chair is of opinion that it requires sixteen yeas, and so rules."

Oakley sprang to his feet and said he had been elected on a plain motion and would go before the Finance Committee with the vote as his credentials.

Goodman offered a resolution that the clerk rectify the proceedings to the Corporation Council.

Then the sea of troubles rose mightily. Goodman sat down a second, then stood up again. Meanwhile Brown and Lantry had been recognized.

"Who's got the floor?" shouted Lantry. "I haven't recognized Brown," said Windolph, and he pounded the desk.

Brown tried to speak when "bang, bang" sounded the gavel. Then Hall and Ware and School and Goodman all wanted to talk at once.

Goodman's resolution was lost, 13 yeas, 14 nays. Then, by a flank movement, Oakley and Brown secured a recess for ten minutes, during which the Finance Committee, consisting of Oakley, Marshall, Windolph, Muh and Goodwin, retired. When they reappeared Oakley had been elected chairman. Marshall refused to vote, protesting that the election would be illegal. Windolph was in the negative.

Then followed a row over the reception of the report. Hall whispered to Windolph, whereupon he made the point that as the time for receiving committee reports was past it could not be accepted. Another appeal from the decision followed and he was beaten, 10 yeas, 10 nays.

Eventually the report was accepted by 14 yeas to 11 nays. All the Republican members signed a protest and said they would send a committee to the Corporation Council to-day and get his opinion on the "illegal election." Meanwhile, however, Oakley became a member of the Sinking Fund Commission.

ALDERMEN OPEN FIRE ON DEAR SAC.

Legislators Asked to Grant Them Power to Investigate.

SCHEME TO DOUBLE UP.

May Give Railroad Commissioners Power to Look Into the Lighting Problem.

POSSIBILITIES FOR ELECTION.

Cheap Gas Plank Would Be Useful to the Republicans, and Could Be Forgotten After the Votes Had Been Counted.

Albany, N. Y., Feb. 9.—The ultimate object of the agitation for cheaper gas, the attainment of municipal control of gas and electric lighting plants, as advocated by the Journal, has made an impression on the Board of Aldermen of the city of New York, as was made evident by the introduction of a bill to-day by Senator Pavey, in the Senate, and Mr. P. H. Murphy, in the Assembly, to authorize the Aldermen to conduct an investigation for the

Commissioners' Nominations Held Back by Raines—Labor Not Satisfied with the Appointment of Baker.

Albany, N. Y., Feb. 9.—A tangle is apparent in the situation relative to the confirmation of Ashley W. Cole, Frank M. Baker and George W. Dunn as Railroad Commissioners. Senator Raines is arbitrarily holding back the report of the Railroad Committee in favor of the confirmation of the nominations, and will not explain why he is doing so.

Meanwhile the leaders have another problem in connection with the Railroad Commissioners, and that is to satisfy the labor representatives that they have been well treated in the appointment of the commissioners.

Frank M. Baker is the appointee of the Governor to satisfy the requirement of the law that a practical railroad man should be one of the members of the commission. Mr. Baker has been manager of a little railroad in the southern tier of the State, and the members of the organizations of railroad men assert

that Mr. Baker's experience does not meet the law.

The Democrats will oppose the confirmation of Mr. Baker, and it is stated that the Republicans are holding back the nominations till they can come to some agreement with the labor people. Senator Raines, chairman of the committee, is said to be preparing an argument to meet those of the Democrats who will support the labor folks in opposition to Mr. Baker.

TO PROBE WATER FAMINE.

Queens County Grand Jury to Investigate the Situation in Long Island City.

The water famine which now prevails in Long Island City will form the subject of an investigation by the Queens County Grand Jury when that body convenes next Monday. The Democratic General Committee which met in Schwalenberg's Hotel late last Monday night, the Common Council and the Republican General Committee have each appointed a corps of investigators to look into the causes which produced the famine and report the result of their inquiry to the Grand Jury.

During the past five or six weeks the suffering among the householders in the upper wards has been intense. Those who have not provided themselves with tanks to store water in have been compelled to go about among their neighbors borrowing pailfuls.

Henry W. Sharkey, who was at the head of the Water Department during the Sanford administration, says that there is more than a sufficient supply of water in the various wells if it was properly managed. He claims that the Water Company is largely owned by Mayor Gleason, who claims to be furnishing 1,500,000 gallons of water per day through a six-inch pipe, is the explanation of it, he says.

The Citizens' Water Supply Company, of Newtown, yesterday renewed their offer to furnish Long Island City with an unlimited quantity of water at half rate, charged by the Woodside Water Company, but the Water Board, of which Mayor Gleason is chairman, paid no attention to the offer. The Mayor says that the chief trouble lies with the Common Council, which has refused to grant the offer.

WESTERN UNION THREATENED.

Its Officers May Be Indicted for Furnishing a Waverly Pool Room Wire.

In a supplemental charge to the Newark Grand Jury yesterday, Judge Fort spoke of the recent raid on Hill's pool room, near Waverly, and the resulting conviction of four men, and said that the Prosecutor had additional evidence which would justify indictments against many, if not all, of the principals.

"No effort must be left unattempted to secure this result," he continued, "it would be a miscarriage of justice to convict and punish the sub-principals, and allow the really guilty parties to go unpunished."

The Judge intimated that the evidence would not only result in the indictment of other persons, but also "one or more officers of certain corporations." This is believed to refer to the Western Union Telegraph Company, which furnished the wire line in Hill's place.

An Election Opportunity.

Declined to Kiss the Bride.

Police Justice Hall, of Bloomfield, N. J., on Monday night married Susan J. Matthews, of Paterson, N. J., and Judge Dandridge, of Orange, Police Justice Collins acted as best man. Justice Hall blushing declined to comply with a suggestion made that he kiss the bride.

notes of cheaper gas states that the commission might about election time formulate a plan for cheaper gas and then drop it when the exigencies of election were over. Senator Mullaly said this evening, when asked about the plan, that he had no intention of proposing such an amendment to the Brackett bill until that measure comes before the Senate.

The Brackett bill proposes to increase the number of railroad commissioners from three to five and reduce the salary from \$8,000 to \$5,000 a year. Senator Brackett says that his bill has not yet received the approval of the leaders, but he thinks that it may pass.

Senator Cantor will to-morrow prepare his amendments to the Cantor-Lambert Dollar gas bill, introduced at the request of the Journal. The amendments are those suggested by E. W. Bouls, the noted political economist, who appeared at the hearing at the request of the Journal.

For a Joint Hearing.

The Assembly Committee on Gas, Electricity and Water Supply will meet to-morrow, and Mr. Goodell, the chairman, says that a hearing will be arranged for the gas bill. At the meeting it will be urged that a joint hearing be held by the Senate and Assembly committees on the Cantor-Lambert Dollar gas bill. If it is ordered by the committees the joint hearing will be held on Thursday, February 10. The only reason given for the objections to a joint hearing is that stated by the friends of the bill, who say that the committee do not wish to hasten the advancement of the measure. The time is approaching when the time of the Legislature will be occupied with the Greater New York charter, the trust investigation, the excise, the civil service question, and such matters. The gas companies want the Cantor-Lambert bill held back until these matters come up, and then they expect to escape in the melee over the measures of a nature more political.

RAILROAD GIFTS TIED UP.

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HOSE REBukes CLEVELAND WICE.

Pension Bills Again Promptly Passed Over His Veto.

HIS OWN RECORD QUOTED.

Sulloway, of Maine, Shows Why There Could Be No "Dangerous Precedent."

IMMIGRATION BILL PASSED.

The Conference Report Was Adopted by the House by a Vote of 217 to 33—National Capital News in Brief.

Washington, Feb. 9.—To-day did the House rebuke President Cleveland for vetoing pension bills. After the Executive refusal to grant a pension to Mrs. Rachel Patton had been called up by Mr. Wood, of Illinois, Amos J. Cummings, of New York, said:

"Can it be that this House of Representatives, which voted a pension of \$5,000 a year to the widow of a Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, because he had been a Chief Justice, will refuse to do justice to this widow? I prefer to stand by the precedent made by Andrew Jackson rather than to stand by the precedent sought to be made by Grover Cleveland."

The bill was then passed, "the objections of the President to the contrary notwithstanding," by a vote of 137 to 60.

The second rebuke was for refusing a pension to Mrs. Caroline Mowatt and adding that "whereas a dangerous precedent."

"Of short memory is this President of ours," said Mr. Sulloway, of Maine. "I looked up his record in this connection and find that he has approved thirteen bills exactly like this, and a larger number in favor of dependent mothers, some of whom had husbands, so that there is nothing in the suggestion against a precedent, for he has established and repeated it a dozen times."

The bill was passed over the veto by a vote of 143 to 59.

The House to-day adopted the conference report on the immigration bill. Twice before has that body passed a distinct proposition on this subject, and the principal changes in the bill presented to-day are the educational test, which will permit the entry of any male immigrant who can read and write English, or any other language, and the exemption from the act of "persons arriving from any place or port in Cuba during the continuance of the present disorders there, who have been born in the territory of the United States."

The Committee on Immigration to-day recommended to the Senate a bill authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to make leases or renewals thereof, for a term not exceeding ten years, of certain lands on Ellis Island, in New York harbor, not exceeding 37,900 square feet, adjacent to, and connected by a bridge with, the main building, for the erection of a building to be used as a land and labor bureau, in accordance with the recommendations of the immigration investigating committee of 1895.

The armor plate question, which has been troubling the Senate Committee on Naval Affairs for many weeks, will probably be disposed of within a few days. The committee this morning agreed that the maximum price to be paid for armor plate should not exceed the sum named by the Secretary of the Navy, \$440,000. The committee found that armor ought to be furnished, with a fair profit to the manufacturers, at \$300 a ton, but the committee reported in favor of a scale between these two figures.

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